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DOS REVIEW
COMPLETED

CLB

24 June 1951

[Redacted]

Copy No. *CJ-9*

25X1

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. *6364*
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. *X*
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS-S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: *2009*
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: *12-15-77* REVIEWER: [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[Redacted]

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Approved For Release 2003/09/26 : CIA-RDP79T00975A000200570001-6

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FAR EAST

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2. Indonesia excludes rubber from strategic list:

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The Indonesian delegate to the UN has told US delegate Gross that the list of strategic materials which the Indonesian Government considers subject to the UN embargo on

Communist China omits rubber. The Indonesian delegate offered three explanations: 1) Indonesian public opinion blames the recent fall of rubber prices on the UN embargo; 2) the government fears that Communist and leftist pressure could cause the cabinet to fall on the embargo

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issue; and 3) Indonesia has a trade pattern under which no rubber is being or has been exported to Communist China. In reply, the US delegate emphasized to the Indonesian representative the strong adverse public reaction which would develop in the US over Indonesian omission of rubber and suggested that the Indonesian Government supplement its strategic list with a statement that Indonesia is adhering to its historic trade pattern under which no rubber is shipped to Communist China.

Comment:

On the basis of its "independent" foreign policy and as evidenced by its abstention during the UN voting on the embargo, Indonesia has been most reluctant to support the embargo on strategic materials to Communist China. Although forced to support it by a majority decision of UN members, the Indonesian Government undoubtedly desired to reemphasize its neutral position by omitting rubber from the strategic list. Despite the Indonesian delegate's contention that the cabinet might fall on the embargo issue, a firm government stand could easily override parliamentary opposition.

EASTERN EUROPE

3. Mass evacuations from Rumania-Yugoslav border area reported:

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Several independent sources have informed the US Legation in Bucharest that during the past few days wholesale evacuations of families have been taking place in the Banat region of western Rumania, adjoining the Yugoslav and Hungarian borders. Trucks in Bucharest were recently commandeered and ordered to the border area, presumably to assist in the evacuations. Reports vary as to destination of the evacuees, but trainloads of them have been seen passing through Bucharest. US couriers en route to Bucharest also report seeing two trainloads of evacuees at

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Arad, near the Hungarian border.

Comment: Since the area of reported evacuation adjoins Yugoslavia, it is probable that the Rumanian Government is attempting to lessen the possibility of mass defections to Yugoslavia similar to those recently occurring in Bulgaria. The inhabitants of the Banat region may be particularly vulnerable to Yugoslav subversion, since they include a large Serbian minority (estimated at 45,000 as of December 1949). This evacuation could also facilitate the concealment of any military activity along the Yugoslav border.

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LATIN AMERICA

5. Comment on reported plot to overthrow Argentine President:

Five junior-grade army officers are under arrest in Argentina, charged with attempting to incite revolt against the government. Announcement of the arrests follows reports of a plot to assassinate President and Mrs. Peron.

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